Researched Literary Analysis Paper

As part of our 20th-century authors unit, you will write a researched literary analysis paper (2–3 pages + a separate Works Cited page).

Your paper will present an insight you have acquired about your author’s writing. It should develop a focused idea that will require support from literary analysis and research. You must approve your thesis statement with me before writing the paper.

In addition to analyzing selections from your author’s writing, you should conduct research of secondary sources to gain additional perspectives on your chosen author. Your paper will need to reference at least four credible sources, including at least one print source and one source from an online database. Also, at least one source should provide information about the historical time period and at least one other source should be a piece of literary criticism.

Your paper should be organized with a clear introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. The introduction should include a focused thesis statement presenting your main insight. Your body paragraphs should include examples and details that show how your literary analysis and your research support the validity of your insight. Your conclusion should provide closure and reinforce your main ideas.

For reasons of both academic honesty and to build your own credibility, it is important that you cite the sources from which you get information. Whenever you refer to ideas you learned from others, you should use MLA-style in-text citations. These citations should refer to an MLA-style Works Cited page.

This is a formal academic paper. It should have header information in MLA format and should be typed in double-spaced 12-point standard font with 1″ margins.

Choose a title for your paper that reflects its main ideas.

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| **Category** | **Superior: 20-19** | **Good: 18-16** | **Developing: 15-14** | **Not Yet: 13-10** |
| **Ideas** | Your paper demonstrates unique insight and strong understanding of literary purposes and/or historical influences as you thoroughly develop a focused thesis about your author’s writing. | Your paper is purposefully concentrated on developing a focused thesis about your author’s writing. | Your paper presents a thesis about your author’s writing that is unfocused, tentative, or factually obvious. | Your paper does not address the assignment. |
| **Support** | You use abundant and convincing evidence drawn from both perceptive literary analysis and thorough research to provide ample support for your insights. You fully meet or exceed the paper’s research requirements. | You provide evidence to support your insights drawn from literary analysis and at least four credible sources. | Your paper presents a thin level of literary analysis or research to support your insights. You may not fully meet the paper’s research requirements. | Your paper lacks support for your insights. Your treatment of your author’s writing consists mostly of summary without progressing to analysis, or you present little if any evidence that you have researched your author. |
| **Presentation of Research** | You integrate quotations smoothly into your own writing, and you cite other’s ideas properly. | You provide citations for any quotations and ideas you have gained from others. | You provide spotty citations for your research. | You do not provide citations for others’ ideas. |
| **Organization** | Your paper demonstrates control and sophistication in organizing ideas to make a point. Your introduction is compelling. Each paragraph transitions smoothly. Your conclusion highlights the significance of your insights. | Your paper is clearly organized with clear introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs. Each body paragraph is introduced with a clear topic sentence. | Your paper exhibits rudimentary organization but is at times disjointed or lacking in direction. | Your paper lacks organization and cohesion. |
| **Style** | Your paper is professionally presented with a superior level of eloquence and polish. You use correct MLA paper format and consistently maintain a formal academic voice. | Your paper is adequately presented and has been proofread. You use MLA paper format and an appropriate formal academic voice. | Your paper has occasional distractions because of conventions errors or awkward language use. You deviate from MLA paper format or occasionally slip from an academic voice. | Your paper is marred by error-ridden language. It is sloppy and appears to be hastily thrown together. You do not follow MLA paper format. Your voice is consistently informal. |